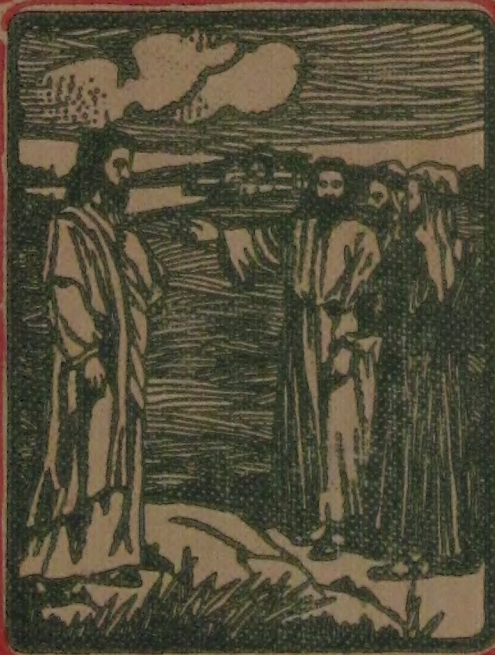
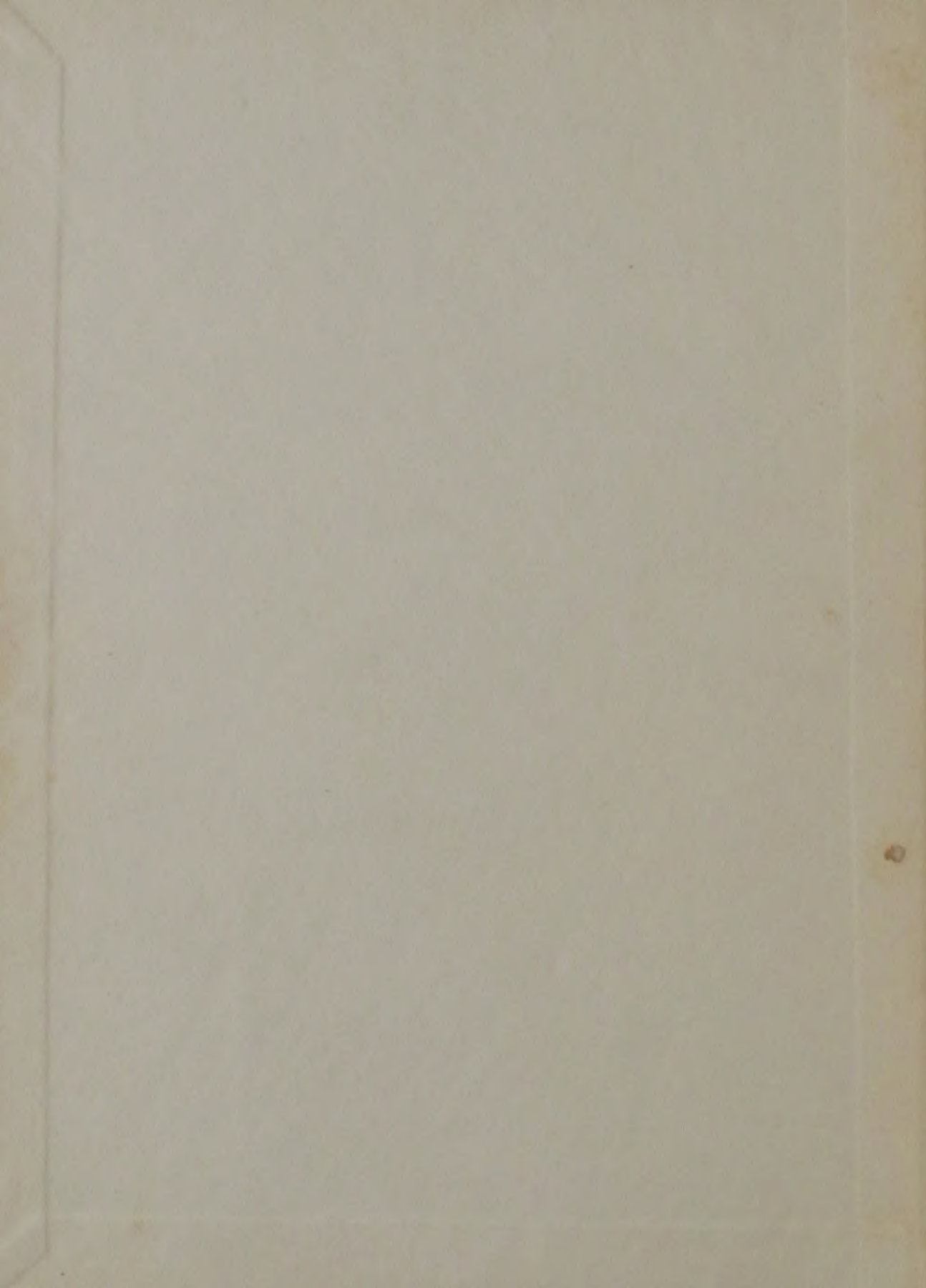


STORIES of JESUS





FREDDIE LACEY

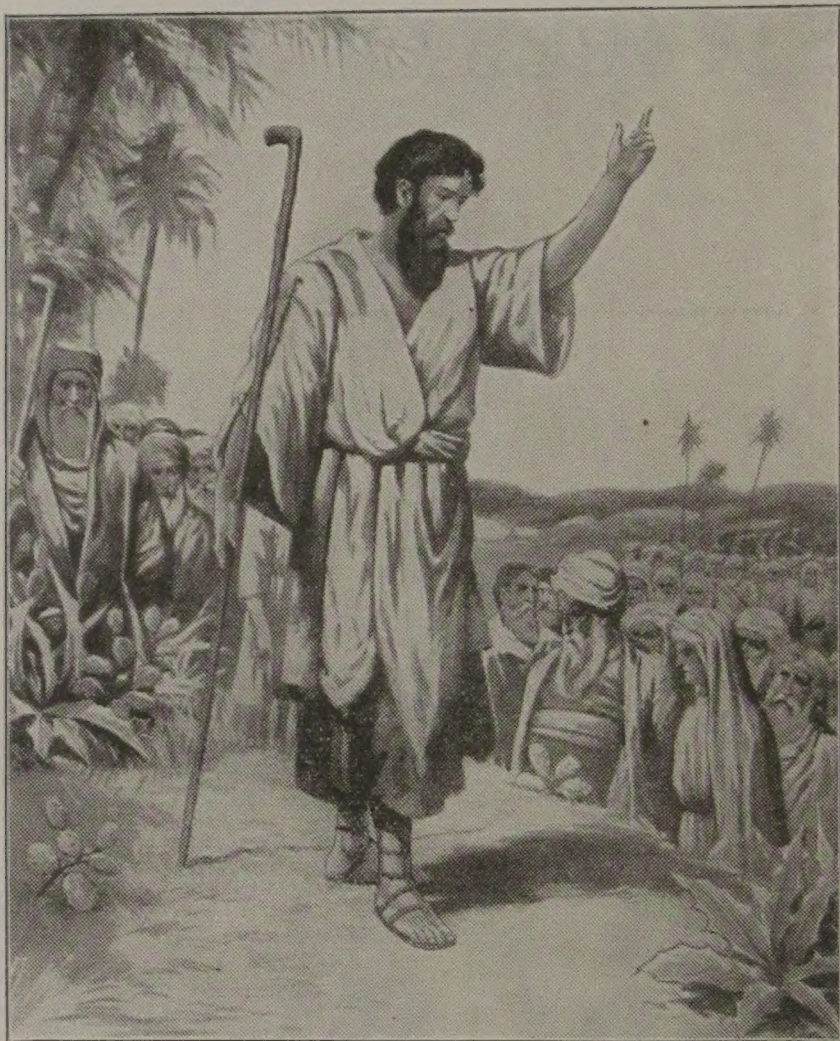
STORIES OF JESUS

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JOHN PREACHING.

The Way Made Ready for Jesus.

JOHN, the beloved disciple, wrote about another dear little baby who came into the world just six months before Jesus was born. Once upon a time there were a man and woman who had no little child in their home, and they wanted one very much. They were very good people and loved and worshiped God. One day when the man was alone praying to God, a beautiful angel came to him and told him something that seemed too good to believe. He promised the man a little baby boy, and told him the baby's name should be John.

Sure enough, the baby came, and was named John. When he grew up he was called John the Baptist. I am sure he

brought great gladness into that home. John and Jesus were cousins, and perhaps played together when they were boys. Do



you think they ever quarreled or were unfair in their play? We know they must have been loving and kind to each other. After they grew to be young men, and while

Jesus still lived in the little town of Nazareth, John went off to live by himself in the wilderness. John the Baptist was a strong man and he was not afraid to be there alone. He wanted to read the Bible and pray to God. He was getting ready to do his work in the world. We have each our work to do, and we should learn how to do it well. John's work was to tell people about Jesus and teach them to love him. While he was in the wilderness he ate wild honey and locusts. He did not go to the stores to buy

fine clothing, but dressed in coarse cloth made of camel's hair.

At last he was ready to begin his work, so he came out of the desert and talked to the people as they came to the river Jordan, and baptized them. That is why he was called John the Baptist. He wanted people to be ready to love and

obey Jesus when he came, so he told them many wonderful things about him. He told them that Jesus was the light of their hearts and could make them happy. While John was talking to the peo-



ple some men went up to the city and told their friends that a man named John was on the banks of the river telling such wonderful things about the Son of God for whom they had been looking so many years. Then some other men heard what they said

and came hurrying out of the city to see John and talk to him. They asked John, "Are you Christ? Are you the Son of God?" They mistook him for Jesus. But John was honest and would not claim to be what he was not. So he said, "No, I am not the Christ." Then they said, "Who are you?" John answered, "I am just a man come to tell people to get ready for Jesus."

He told them that Jesus was good and pure, and that they could not be ready for him until they put away the sin out of their hearts.

A great many people believed John and asked him what to do. He told those who had stolen to steal no more. He told all those who had taken what did not belong to them, to give back what they had taken. A great many were sorry for their sins; they went to the Jordan, where he was, and told John they would give them up, and asked him to baptize them.

Some people came to hear John who he

was afraid did not really mean to give up their sins. He told them if they were sorry for their sins to prove it.

He said a good tree brings forth good fruit. So if they claimed to have good, clean hearts, they must show it by living good, pure lives. He told them a little story about the farmer, who carefully separates the chaff from the grain.

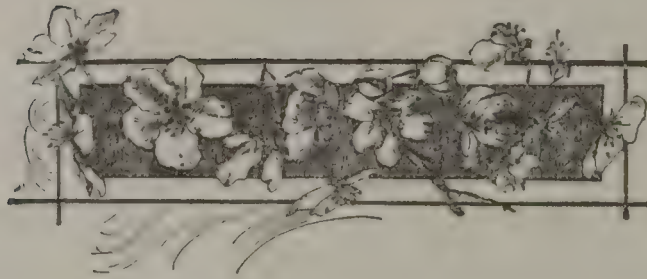
The wheat is good and useful. The chaff is the useless part that grows around the



wheat. It is not good to make flour, and is only in the way. So the farmer gathers up all the good wheat carefully, and puts it away safely in his barn;

but the chaff is only in the way, so he gathers it up in a heap, and makes a bonfire, just as your father gathers up the dead leaves and rubbish and burns them.

The good things in our hearts are like the wheat. The naughty things in our hearts are like the chaff. When John saw his hearers turning away from their sins, he knew they were like the farmer getting the chaff out of his wheat. He knew that they were getting their hearts ready for Jesus.





JESUS BAPTIZED.

Jesus Baptized.

A GREAT many people came to John and he baptized them in the river Jordan. John wore a garment or coat of camel's hair, fastened about his waist with a



leather belt. He ate locusts and honey which the wild bees made. John told the people that Jesus, who was coming to

be their Savior, was so much better than he that he felt unworthy to untie his shoes. He told them that he baptized them with water, but that when Jesus came, he would baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

When our faces and hands are dirty we

wash them with water to make them clean. We cannot make our hearts clean with water, but when we are baptized we ask Jesus to make our hearts clean and take away all our sins. John was baptizing people there on the river bank, to show that they wanted to have their hearts made clean and pure.

One day while John was at the river baptizing those who wanted to be good and true, Jesus came and asked him to baptize him.



John did not like to baptize Jesus, for he thought he was not good enough to baptize so pure and holy a person; but Jesus wished

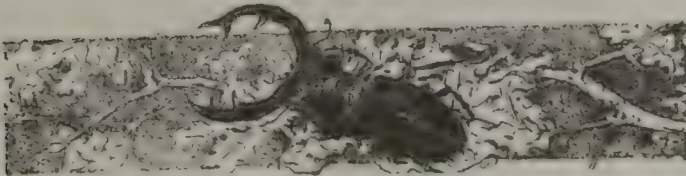
him to do so, and he at once obeyed.

Jesus never sinned and did not need to be baptized for his own sake, but he wished to obey all good rules and do all good works that others did who had sinned and repented.



As Jesus was coming up from the water after he was baptized, something very wonderful happened. The heavens opened and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came down and rested upon his head. Then they heard a voice speaking, which they knew was the voice of God. He said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

God spoke from heaven, so that John and every one else might know that Jesus surely was his Son.





JESUS AFTER THE TEMPTATION.

Jesus Tempted.

JESUS knows how to pity us when we are tempted to do wrong, because Satan tempted him, and he knows just how hard it is for us to fight against Satan. A short time after he was baptized, Jesus went into the wilderness, or lonely woods, to pray and think of his Father, and of his work here on



earth. He stayed in the wilderness forty days and forty nights, fasting. At the end of this time he was very hungry. Satan was

watching, and he thought this would be a good time to get him to sin; so he told him if he was the Son of God, to change some of the stones into bread. Jesus at once knew

who his enemy was, and put on the whole armor of God, that he might not hurt him. But he wanted to conquer Satan, so he took the Sword of the Spirit to fight him with.



Do you know what the Sword of the Spirit is? It is the Word of God. Every time Satan tempted him Jesus answered him with a verse from God's Word; this hurt him

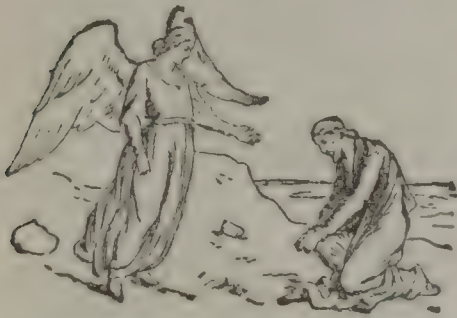
worse than anything else. So when Satan said, "Make these stones into bread," Jesus answered, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone."



Satan next took him to the top of the temple, and told him to throw himself down; that God would take care of him. Jesus said, "It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Satan then took him to the top of a high mountain, and showed him all the beauty and wealth of the world around them. He told Jesus that if only he would fall down and worship him, he would give him all this wealth.

This was a very wicked thing Satan asked Jesus to do. He tried to get him to break the first commandment. But Jesus was strong



and brave, and used his Sword again.

He said: "Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and

him only shalt thou serve."

Satan saw that he could not make Jesus do wrong, so he left him, and angels came to minister to him.



JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES.

Jesus' First Disciples.

AT FIRST people did not know who Jesus was. Did you ever find yourself in a strange place and wish you had some friend to introduce you and tell the others who you were? Jesus had a friend who introduced him to the people. It was his



cousin, John the Baptist, the very one who went before him preparing the way for him. Jesus had a short time before left

his home in Nazareth to begin his work among the people, and one day as John was telling the people about him, Jesus passed by. John, pointing to him, said,

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

The next day as John stood talking with two of his disciples, Jesus again passed by, and John, seeing him, again said, "Behold the Lamb of God."



When the two disciples of John heard this, they left him and followed Jesus. When Jesus knew that they were following him, he turned and spoke to them, and said, "What seek ye?" They said, "Master, where dwellest thou?" Then Jesus said, "Come and see;" so they went and spent the day with him.

Don't you think you would have enjoyed spending a day with Jesus? What kind of a home do you think he had? He had no home of his own, and, wherever he stayed,



it must have been a very humble place. But those who love Jesus care very little about what sort of a place they are called to live in, if only their beloved Jesus is with them. We can have Jesus spend all our days with us if we truly love him, and when he calls us home to heaven, we will spend all our time with him in his beautiful mansions.

These two who spent the day with Jesus must have learned to love him, for they went at once and found their brothers, and said to them, "We have found the Christ."

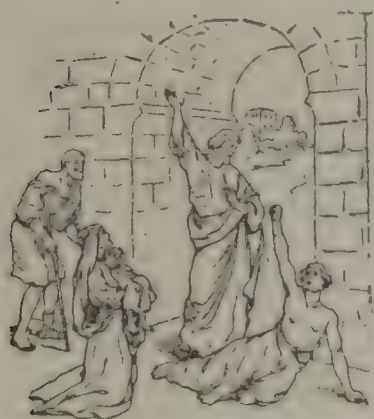
Would you like to know who these first followers of Jesus were? The first two who heard John the Baptist speak and followed Jesus were Andrew and John the beloved disciple. Then Andrew found Peter, his brother, and John his brother James. These brothers also became followers of Jesus. The next day Jesus found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."



JESUS AT NAZARETH.

Jesus in His Own City.

AFTER Jesus was baptized, and after he was tempted in the desert and proved how wise and good and strong he was, he



began his work. He had left his home in Nazareth for a while, parted from his dear, loving mother and all his friends. He was very sorry to leave his mother. She was growing old, and he loved to be with her and help her to be happy. Still, one day Jesus bade his mother good-by and went about his work. He had a great deal to do, for he was a preacher, a teacher, and a doctor. When he was not teaching or

preaching, he was healing the sick. After a while he thought he would love to see his mother and all his old friends—his teachers, and the boys who had gone to school with him and had played and worked with him, and who had journeyed with him and his parents when they all went up to the temple together at Jerusalem.

Jesus loved them all and longed to see them again, and visit with them, and help them, as he did the people in other cities. So he and some of his friends started one day for Nazareth.



How happy he was to see them all! When the Sabbath

came, he went with them to church, for he always went to church. When it was time to begin, the minister handed Jesus the Bible, and asked him to read to them, for he had heard how Jesus had been preaching in

other cities. So Jesus stood up and took the book and began to read to them.

He turned to the place in the book which was written about him long before he came. What Jesus read about himself meant that



God had sent him to preach to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to set free those who were slaves to sin, to give sight

to the blind and comfort the sad.

When Jesus had finished reading these verses, he handed the book to the minister and sat down.



All the people looked at him with wonder, for they could not understand that the great and holy one whom God had sent to bless them, and about whom the Bible told, was really

their old friend and playmate Jesus. While they sat looking at him, his heart was filled with love and tenderness for them. He had come to them in love; he wanted to do for them all the beautiful verses said. But he knew their hearts—he knew they would not believe that he could help them. He began to talk to them so kindly they could not help seeing how great and good he was, but they would not believe. Then Jesus told them why he could do nothing for them. He told them that they must believe him.

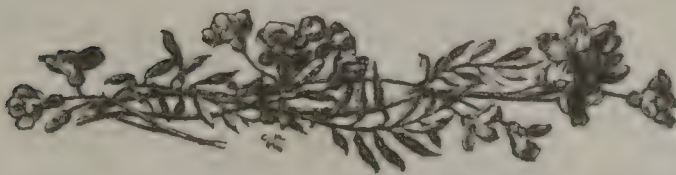
When those old friends of Jesus heard him tell why the blessings did not come to them, they became angry.



They got up and put him out of their church. They took him to the edge of a hill and tried to push him over. But he got out of their sight and went away. Some were glad to see him,

and did all they could to show their love.

Jesus was kind to all sorts of people. He offered them his love, his help, and his blessing. He passed no one by, but many refused to receive his love; even his own old home-friends would not receive him. Do you not think he was grieved and hurt? How sad his mother was to see her son treated so! If Jesus were to knock at your door to-day, would you not run to meet him? Would you not show your love for him in every way?





JESUS CALLS DISCIPLES.

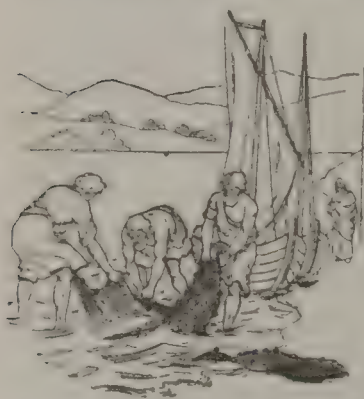
Jesus Calls Four Disciples.

JESUS went to see many people who had not known him before. Many of them were glad to hear his kind, wise words, for he taught them how to be good and happy. They heard how he healed the sick and blind and lame. After he left Nazareth, his old home, the people often followed him in crowds. One day as he was walking beside the lake, the crowd was so anxious to get near him that they nearly pushed him into the water.

I think it was a bright, pleasant day, with the sun shining and sparkling on the water, the birds singing in the trees, and the little children running about playing. Even the mothers came out of their houses

with their babies in their arms, to see what the crowd was about.

Do you think Jesus was sorry to have so many people crowd around him? Do you think he felt badly because the mothers brought their babies in their arms, and let the other little children play around beyond the crowd of people or cling to their mothers' skirts? No, he was glad to have them there, and perhaps put his hands upon their heads and smiled at them. When the crowd became so great that he could not



talk to them, Jesus looked around and saw two little boats on the beautiful blue lake. The boats belonged to some fishermen, who were near by on the edge of the lake washing their nets.

These men spent all their time catching fish to sell. In that way they made money to buy food and clothes for themselves and

their families. They had to use nets, so they could catch a great many. Sometimes they mended their nets, when they became old or torn.

When Jesus saw the empty boats, he got into the one which belonged to a man named Peter, and asked him to take the boat out a little way from the shore. Simon Peter did so, and then Jesus sat down in the boat and talked to the people on the land. It must have been a very still day and the lake very quiet, for the people could hear what he said. You may be sure Simon Peter and the other fishermen listened.



It was kind of Simon Peter to help Jesus by lending him his boat. I am sure Jesus thought so, and he wanted to do something to show Peter that he thanked him, so he showed him how to take his whole net full of fish. The net was

so full that it was going to break, and Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, who was with him in the ship, could not lift it out alone, so they called to James and John, their partners, who were in the other boat, to come and help them. They were all surprised at the great net full of fish,



and Peter fell down at Jesus' feet and called him Lord.

Jesus told them not to be afraid, and invited them to come and follow him, and live with

him as his friends, and help him to teach and cure people. They were glad to do so. They did not say, "No, not yet; we must go and sell our fish first;" nor did they ask where they would sleep, nor what they would have to eat. They just hurried and brought their boats to the shore, then they left all—boats, nets, fish, everything—and

followed Jesus. They went with him everywhere, and were his dear friends as long as he stayed in this world. They obeyed him and helped him, and tried every day to be like him.



They proved that they loved Jesus because they obeyed him. His old friends at Nazareth would not receive him, but these new friends loved and obeyed him, and he called them his disciples, or dear friends and helpers.

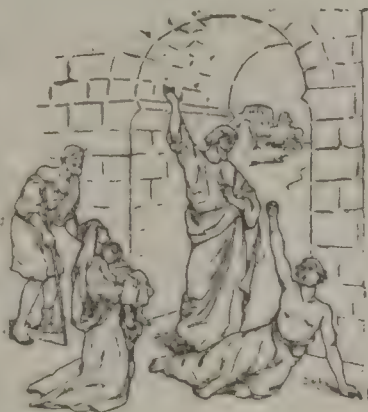




JESUS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN.

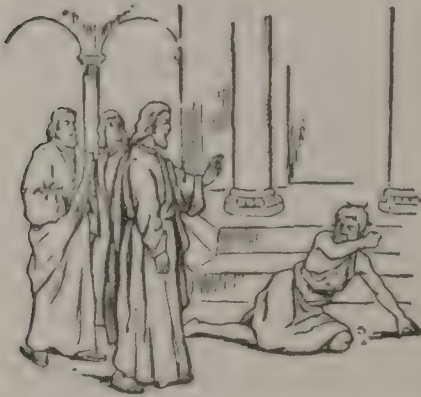
Jesus the Great Physician.

WHEN Jesus lived here in the world as man, his spirit—the part that knows and loves us—lived in a body just like ours, and people could see him. When they looked at his sweet, loving face, they knew he loved them, and they crowded after him to hear him and see what he would do. He was always very busy teaching and healing, for he was a teacher, and a preacher, and a doctor.



I am going to tell you how he spent one Sabbath—preaching in the church in the morning and afterward curing many sick people, some of them cripples.

Upon this Sabbath day Jesus went first to church. He loved to go to church. Do you remember how he went with his parents when he was a little boy? Then the teachers in the great temple were surprised to



hear him talk so wisely. So it was now; when the people heard him they said, "What a very good teacher he is!" and they loved to hear him.

While they were listening so quietly, all at once someone cried out loud, and everybody looked to see what the trouble was. Jesus stopped teaching, and saw that the man who made the noise was crazy; that his mind—that is, the part of him that he thought with and that told him how to act right—was sick. His mind was so sick that he did not know at all how to act. That was why he screamed out in church. The people said he was bad, but

Jesus knew what the matter was. He was very sorry for the poor man, and went to him and talked kindly to him and made him well.

The people were surprised that Jesus could make the man's sick mind well, and they went home from church and told every one about it. When church was out, Jesus and his four dear friends, Peter, Andrew, James and John, all went to Peter's house, to have dinner with him.

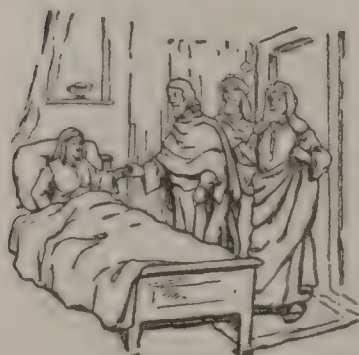


I suppose Peter thought the house would all be nice and tidy and a good dinner ready, and he was very happy to have Jesus and his other friends with him in his home.

When they went in, what a sad sight they saw! No dinner ready at all. Peter's wife was not even getting it ready; instead of that, she was working over her mother,

who was lying on her bed very sick with a high fever. I think Peter's wife was crying as she fanned her and bathed her with cool water. If there were any little children, they were off by themselves, very quiet and frightened.

When Jesus saw this sad sight, he was very sorry. He went up to the bed where



the sick woman lay, and took her by the hand.

Just as soon as she felt the touch of Jesus' hand, the fever left her, and she was well and strong. Not one drop of bitter medicine did he give her.

Then she wanted to show her love for the good, kind Doctor, so she helped to get dinner ready for him and his friends. How glad she was to wait on them, and see that they had all they wanted to eat! Perhaps Peter's wife sat and listened to Jesus while her mother got dinner.

Soon it was evening, and the hot sun had gone down. It was the cool, quiet time when people went up on top of the houses to rest and have a good time together. Perhaps you think Jesus and Peter and Andrew and James and John and Peter's wife and her mother all went up there to have a nice talk together. Maybe they planned to do so, but they did not get a chance, for they heard a noise around the house, and when they opened the door what do you think they saw? A large crowd of sick people who had heard about the great Doctor! There were all kinds of sick people, some with sick bodies and some with sick minds.

Did Jesus say, "Shut the door; I am too tired"? No, indeed. I wish you could make a picture in your mind of Jesus going around among all those sick ones, putting his hands upon them, and smiling kindly on them, and curing them of all their sickness.



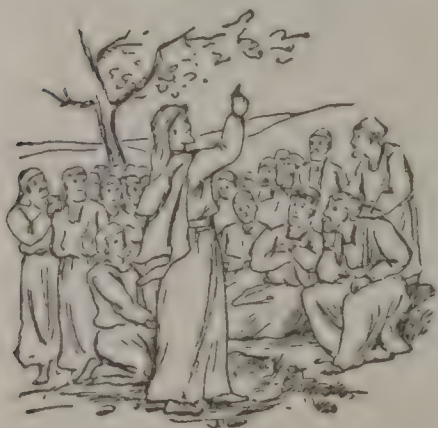
JESUS THE GREAT TEACHER.

The Great Teacher.

DID you know that when Jesus was upon earth he taught school? I am sure that he was the kindest, wisest teacher who ever taught anyone. He did not have his learners come to a schoolroom and sit at desks to study. He taught them in very many different places. Sometimes they had their lessons out in the harvest-field, and sometimes while they were sailing on the lake. Sometimes Jesus taught in the evening on the housetop, and once he taught one scholar by a well. Jesus had some regular pupils who went around with him and studied lessons every day. We know



the names of some of the very first pupils who came to Jesus. But Jesus had also a great many visitors in his school who came a few times and then got tired and stopped



coming. One day a good many people came to hear Jesus teach. There were these men who loved him and stayed in his school all the time. Then there were some who came to

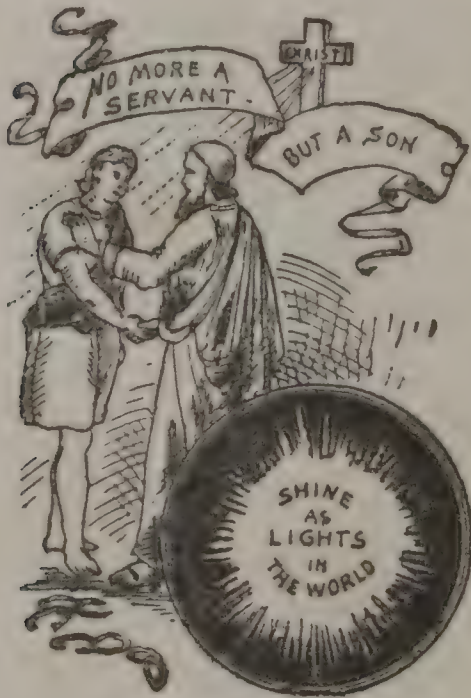
his school now and then, and there were also those who were just visitors and did not mean to have Jesus for a teacher or obey him. Jesus said to those pupils who came just once in a while, "If you want to be my scholars you must come regularly and listen to what I say and mind me every day. I will teach you things that are true and that will make you free." Did you ever see a dog fastened by a chain? He had to stay

right there and could not run around and play. How glad he was when his master came and took the chain off so he could jump around and be free! When Jesus said he would make his scholars free, these people said, "Why, we are free already; we have never been tied up. We are Abraham's children



and have never even been a servant to another man. We can go and come as we like." I think we are all proud of our dear fathers, and hope we may be so good and obedient that they will also be proud of us. These people were proud of being Abraham's children, for Abraham was a good man who loved and obeyed God. So they looked very proud as they said, "We are not servants, but the children of Abraham. Why do you say your words will make us free? We are free already." Jesus an-

swered, "Truly, I say unto you, whosoever does wrong is the servant of sin." Jesus meant that while people had naughty, sinful hearts and liked to do wrong things they



were like the dog that is chained, and not free at all. After people get used to being naughty they cannot make themselves good. But if they ask Jesus, he can always take the badness out of their hearts.

One day as Jesus sat upon the mountainside with his disciples a great crowd followed him, and he taught them how to live so God would bless them. He said,

"Blessed are the poor in spirit.

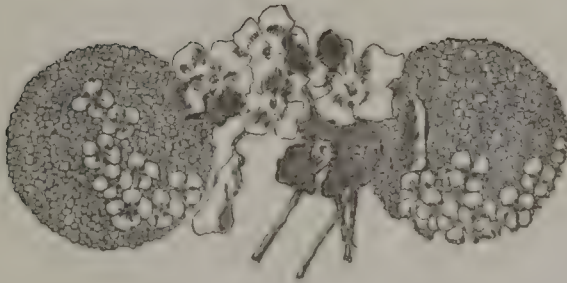
"Blessed are they that mourn.

“Blessed are the meek.

“Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness.

“Blessed are the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers.

“Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.”





JESUS THE GREAT HELPER.

Jesus the Great Helper.

ONE day when Jesus was feeling very tired and sad, he went with his disciples to a lonely place to rest and think. He wanted to go a long way off where he

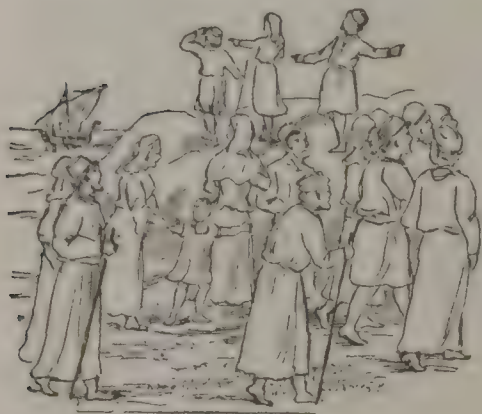


would not see anyone except his dearest friends; so he got into a boat and crossed over to the other side of a large lake. The people who lived in the cities along the side of the lake were never tired of hearing Jesus talk to them. They always felt happier and better afterwards. He used to visit their homes, helping them to be good and curing the sick ones. He was such a comfort to them, that when they

heard he had gone away across the lake, many left their homes and hurried on foot around the other side to meet him, and got there first.

All day they kept coming, and many of them brought their sick little boys and girls or friends with them. They said, "Now is a good chance to get near Jesus away off

there alone." You see they all thought the same way, so there was a great crowd there. If you had seen them over on the lake shore in the woods, you



would have said, "What a great big picnic!" And that is just what it turned out to be.

Do you think Jesus was cross when he saw all those people waiting for him, and sent them away? No, indeed. When he saw how those poor people needed him, he

forgot all about himself. He spent the whole day teaching the people, so their souls would grow good and strong; and healing the sick ones, so their bodies would be strong and comfortable.

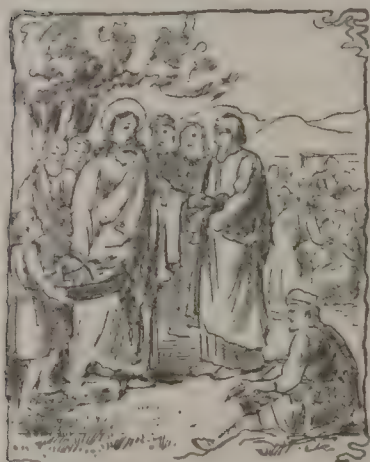
What does your teacher do for the tired, crying little ones at your picnic? I think she takes them in her arms and loves them and pets them until they are rested and happy. I think Jesus did just the same. The poor mothers were so tired from running so far, carrying their babies, that they could not tell what to do with them, so Jesus must have taken the dear babies in his arms and comforted them until they laughed and were glad.

So the day was spent. All were so glad and happy with Jesus that it was evening before they knew it. Then the disciples came to Jesus, who was still busy, and said to him: "It is getting late, these people are a long way from home, and they came in such a hurry that they brought no luncheon

with them. They are hungry now; don't you think you had better send them home?"

Jesus looked at them and said: "It is too far; they will be very tired and hungry; they must eat first; what have you to give them?"

The disciples said, "Oh, it would take a

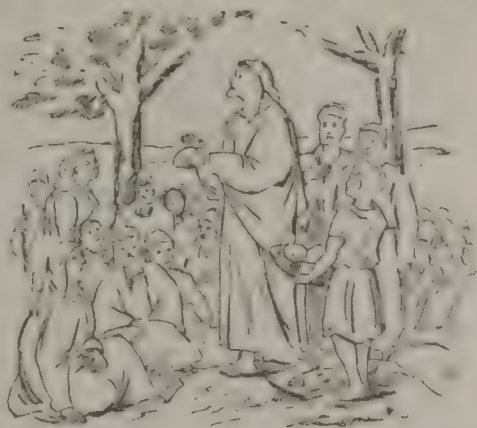


great deal to feed them; why, there are five thousand here! A little boy is here who has two small fishes and five loaves of bread; he would give these to us, but what good would that do?"

Jesus said, "Call the boy." When he came he was glad to give the bread and fishes to Jesus, and waited to see what he would do with them.

Jesus knew very well what he could do. Do you know how he makes one grain of corn, when planted, so that it will grow up into a great tall stalk with many ears,

and each ear with hundreds of grains? We don't know, but he knows. So he said to the disciples: "There is enough; get all the people together and have them sit down on the grass." When all were seated Jesus took a little fish and some of the bread out of the basket, then first he looked up to heaven and asked God to bless it. Then he broke it and gave the pieces to the disciples to pass around. They kept coming back for more, and every time there was more left. At last every one had all that he could eat, even more than he could eat, for they gathered up twelve baskets full of the pieces that were left.





JESUS LOVED.

Jesus Loved.

JESUS was once invited to a party at the house of a man named Simon, whom he had cured of the dreadful disease of leprosy. Simon had also invited the disciples. Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha, were there. I think that perhaps Simon gave this feast to show his thankfulness and love to Jesus, and praise him and tell to others the wonderful thing that Jesus had done for him in restoring him to health and strength again. Simon had asked Lazarus because he, too, had received even a greater gift from the hands of Jesus, some eight or ten weeks before, when Jesus had raised him from the dead. For these reasons this would be a very happy gathering indeed, and all would want

to praise and thank Jesus for his goodness to them.

In that land, when invited guests came to a house, they were welcomed with a kiss, and the host would say, "The Lord be with you." As it was very warm, the people wore neither shoes nor stockings, but only sandals of wood or leather, which looked like the soles of our boots, fastened on to the feet with straps. These were taken off and left at the door of the house, and servants washed the road dust from the feet of the guests before they went to the table. Another strange thing we would notice in the supper room would be the different shaped table from ours. Eastern tables were shaped so that the servants could wait upon the guests, serve the good things, and change the dishes. And instead of sitting on chairs, as we do, they rested upon their left arms, lying on sofas placed around the three sides of the square table, leaving the right hands free to use in eating.

When Simon and his friends gathered round the table, Martha served the supper, and I am sure that she would be very thankful to Jesus for giving back to her from death her much-loved brother, Lazarus; so that serving was her love-gift to that party. Now perhaps Simon and Lazarus talked to those who sat at the table, as they were eating, about what Jesus had done for them; so thanking and praising was their love-gift. Many had heard that Simon the leper was giving a party to Jesus and Lazarus, and came to the house curious to see if what they had heard was really true—that Lazarus was alive, and Simon the leper was cured of his leprosy. Kings and great men were often honored, in the land where Jesus lived, by pouring perfumed oil upon the head, which was called anointing the head. As the party were eating and the people outside were straining their necks to see in, they saw Mary, the gentle sister of Lazarus, with something in her hand, and as she un-

wrapped it they saw it was a most costly white and yellow onyx marble box of sweet and precious perfume—in all likelihood the costliest treasure that Mary owned—and



with this Mary wanted to show her love and thanks to Jesus for what he had done for them.

Mary came in quietly, and was scarcely noticed until she had unsealed and opened the box of costly perfume, when its scent filled the house. Then all looked to see what the perfume was and where it came from, and great was their surprise to see Mary pouring it out, first upon the head and then upon the feet of Jesus. Some of the disciples were displeased when Mary did this, and found fault with her, and said she was wasting the costly ointment. All were surprised at her generosity, and Judas, the

disciple who carried the purse, said that the ointment should have been sold and the money given to the poor. But Jesus, knowing that it was a true love gift, said with perfect gentleness and in a tone that must have carried great joy to Mary's heart: "Why trouble you the woman? Let her alone. She hath wrought a good work; she hath done what she could; and wherever the story of my love shall be told throughout the world, this thing which Mary has done shall also be told as a memorial of her love."



Though Simon gave the supper, and Martha served the guests with her hands, and Lazarus told the story of what Jesus had done for him, still the greatest thanks in the sight of Jesus was the love-gift of Mary—giving the best she had, the

sweet, costly perfume, pouring it out willingly and lovingly, honoring Jesus as a King.

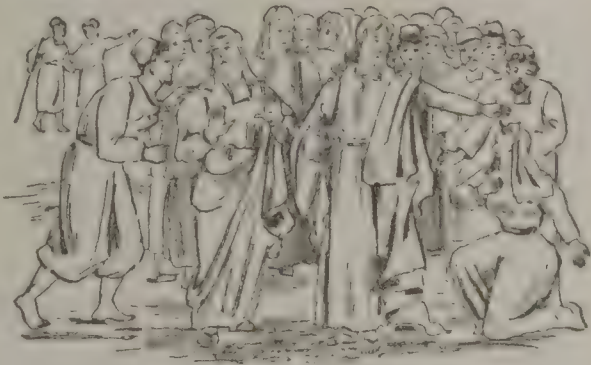




JESUS HONORED.

Jesus Honored.

THE next day after his loving friends had made the supper for Jesus, and Mary had given him her very best gift, Jesus and his disciples went back to Jerusalem. On all the roads leading to the city there were great crowds of people who were also



going to Jerusalem to keep a certain feast. This feast of the Jews was eaten in Jerusalem, and many people were going there to get ready for it. Some of them were sick or in trouble and needed Jesus' help.

Many had heard about the wonderful things which Jesus had done, and they wanted to honor him. So they broke off



palm branches from the trees and came to meet him. As they were passing a little town, Jesus told two of his friends to go there

and they would find a donkey with her colt tied. They were to bring the two animals to him, and if anyone questioned them they were to say, "The Lord hath need of them," and they would not be hindered.

So they went into the village, and sure enough, they found the donkey and her colt, just as Jesus had said they would. As they were untying them, their owner said, "Why are you untying the colt?" When they answered, "The Lord hath need of him," the man said no more, but allowed

them to take the animals to Jesus. They put their cloaks on the colt for a saddle, and Jesus rode on its back. No one had ever ridden on this colt before, and Jesus did it to show he was King of the Jews.



Many years before this God had told the people that their King would come into Jerusalem riding on the back of a colt. This is the way Jesus took to tell the people that he was the King God had promised them.

When the people saw Jesus riding in this strange way, they understood that he was claiming to be their King, and they were very happy indeed. They made a soft path for him to ride over, by spreading their clothes in the road before him. They also pulled off branches from the trees and threw them down for a green carpet. When they

came near to Jerusalem, those who loved Jesus began to "rejoice and praise God in a loud voice," and then all the great crowd of people in that long procession began to



shout and sing a glad song of love and praise: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the

Lord." People also came out of Jerusalem to meet them and join the happy procession. They all went to the temple, and even the little children there sang a glad song of praise. Jesus was pleased with the words of the children.



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